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Message Text

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11
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 095661
P 111123Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2432

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 10684

EXDIS

FOR DAVIES FROM BYROADE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF
SUBJECT: PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

1. WOULD LIKE YOUR GUIDANCE ON A RATHER SENSITIVE MATTER WHICH MAY COME UP SHORTLY, AS I ASSUME THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WILL BE TRYING TO DECIDE SOON WHAT CREDENCE TO GIVE TO INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FROM KABUL RE QUITE LARGE SHIPMENTS OF SOVIET TANKS TO AFGHANISTAN. IF THEY TAKE POSITION OF CONFIRMING A BELIEF THAT ANY SUCH NUMBER AS 862 IS INVOLVED, THEY I WOULD HAVE THE PROBLEM OF WHETHER TO TELL BHUTTO THAT WE HAVE THIS TENTATIVE TYPE OF WORD.

2. IF CAN BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED, THAT IF THESE REPORTS ARE TRUE, BHUTTO WILL KNOW THROUGH HIS OWN SOURCES SHORTLY AFTER WE DO, IF INDEED NOT BEFORE. IT WOULD PROBABLY CONSIDERABLY ENHANCE MY EARLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH HIM IF THE REPORT COULD COME FROM ME PERSONALLY TO HIM BEFORE HE GETS IT IN ANY OTHER WAY. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT OUR DISCUSSION MIGHT BE BETTER UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES THAN IF HE HAS TIME TO FUME ABOUT THE MATTER, AND CONFRONT ME WITH HIS OWN REPORTS, ALL PRIMED TO ASK ME JUST WHAT WE CAN DO IN RESPONSE TO THIS SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF I CAN TAKE THE INITIATIVE, IT WILL SHOW THAT WE VALUE OUR RELATIONS
SECRET

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WITH PAKISTAN, AND ITS SECURITY, HIGHLY ENOUGH TO SHARE THIS KIND OF INTELLIGENCE PROMPTLY.

3. BHUTTO WILL BE BACK HERE IN A COUPLE OF DAYS FROM

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HIS PRESENT TRAVELS. IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO RECEIVE
A REPLY BEFORE THAT, I WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL.BYROADE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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To: STATE
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